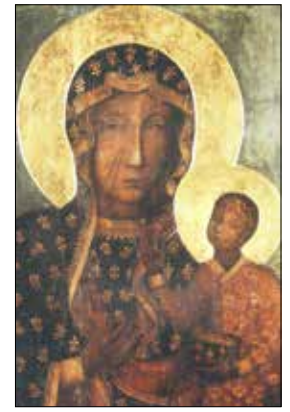




# MARY'S ROSE NEWSLETTER



Pauline Fathers & Rosary Bouquet

Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians Marian Valley  
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Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE

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## News from 'Marian Valley'

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

It is so good to be home after 9 months 'in exile'. What should have been a 3-week trip to Jasna Gora, Poland in February 2020 for a General Chapter meeting, turned out to be 9 months for both Br Bruno and myself. I would like to thank Fr Jeremy and Fr Anthony for their wonderful work in keeping Marian Valley going during these particularly difficult times throughout 2020, and I would also like to thank the many dedicated volunteers who assisted behind the scenes.

During December 2020, we celebrated 25 years since the opening and blessing of Marian Valley and the Dedication of the Black Madonna Chapel. It is amazing to witness the transformation of a farming property to a beautiful holy sacred place to pray and spread the devotion to Our Lady. The Pauline monks have been the custodians of the Icon of Our Lady of Czestochowa, the Black Madonna, for more than six centuries.

We continue to grow with plans to build a Divine Mercy Chapel. It has now been approved, and is envisaged to be completed by early 2022. Please pray for this wonderful project.

In November 2020, the Rwandan community blessed their new Chapel of Our Lady of Kibeho.

Christmas and New Year time is always busy. Although there were restrictions in 2020 due to COVID19, the masses and singing were wonderful, as well as the 'lighting show' which was put together by volunteers, Milen and Nadia Lemiszczuk. Thanks to all involved.

January is an important month each year for the Pauline Fathers. During this month, the Pauline monks celebrate several masses pertaining to the Order of St Paul The First Hermit. This year 2021, we celebrate the 750th anniversary death of Blessed Eusebius – founder of our Order.

On a sad note, a friend of the Marian Valley community, Erica Freingruber passed away in December 2020. May her soul rest in peace.

We thank those people who have contributed to the Marian Valley Historical section with photos and newspaper clippings. If anyone wishes to donate any material for the Historical Department you are most welcome.

May God strengthen you with his graces and blessings,

**Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE**  
**Rector**  
**Marian Valley Canungra**



**On the Solemnity of St Paul the First Hermit – Br Bruno Kanamis OSPPE, Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE, Fr Anthony David OSPPE, Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE**



**“St Joseph’s Hermitage Retreat Centre** St Joseph’s Hermitage Retreat Centre has hermitage-style Retreat cabins with a magnificent Chapel of Adoration located in a serene, naturally occurring beautiful setting, and offers an opportunity for spiritual renewal to individuals and small groups. The cost is \$30 per night and each cabin has two single beds and is self-contained. The serenity of the surroundings, the lovely views, as well as the close proximity of Church, daily mass, shrines and Adoration chapel, makes the Centre ideal for retreats. Contact details for all Retreat Centre enquiries: Ph/fax 07-55 333 378 or email marianretreat@bigpond.com

### The Order of St. Paul The First Hermit

Young men interested in seeking a life of prayer and service to Jesus through Mary might think of the Monks of St. Paul the Hermit. We are a semi-contemplative monastic order especially devoted to Mary. Our Life is: Contemplation; Divine Liturgy; Devotion to Our Lady. Our work is: Shrines; Pastoral; Retreats. For further information, write to: Vocations Director, Pauline Fathers, 120 Hanging Rock Road, Berrima NSW 2577

### Remember Marian Valley In Your Will

The Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians at Marian Valley survives totally on the donations of the faithful. If you would like to help Marian Valley in the future you might consider remembering us in your Will. If you would like to do this, the correct way to put us in your will is: Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians - Marian Valley - Pauline Fathers - ABN 24 195 762 439 - 2541 Beechmont Rd, Witheren, Canungra Qld 4275

## ORDER OF ST PAUL THE FIRST HERMIT

The Order of St Paul the First Hermit is steeped in rich history. This year the Order celebrates the 750th anniversary death of Blessed Eusebius, the founder of the Order, who died in 1271 A.D. The Order is one of the oldest in the Roman Catholic Church, and its charism is well-known for spreading devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Each year the Monks celebrate several masses in January that relate to the Order of St Paul The First Hermit.

On 15th January, the Solemnity of St Paul The First Hermit – Patron Saint of the Pauline Order - is celebrated. On this day the Pauline monks renew their religious vows. St Paul the hermit was born around the year 228 in Alexandria, Egypt, and is considered to be the first saint to have lived the solitary life.

On 16th January, the monks celebrate the Feast of Our Lady Queen of Hermits, Mother and Patroness of the Order. On this day the Pauline monks renew their covenant to Our Lady.

On 17th January, the Memorial of St Anthony the Abbot is celebrated. Before St Paul the Hermit died, he was discovered by St Anthony the Abbot who had spread the news about his holiness.

On 20th January, the monks celebrate the Feast of Blessed Eusebius of Esztergom – founder of the Order of St Paul The First Hermit. The Monastic Order of St Paul the First Hermit originated in Hungary in the year 1215 – over 800 years ago.

On display in front of the altar during the masses in January, is a picture of St Paul The First Hermit and his relic, and a picture of Blessed Eusebius, with three blessed items: 'The Rock from the Grotto of Blessed Eusebius'; 'A Brick from the first Pauline Fathers Church where Blessed Eusebius lived with his community in Hungary dating back to the Year 1225' and 'A Rock from the Grave of Blessed Eusebius'.



## BICENTENNIAL YEAR

In 1815, Pope Pius VII instituted the Feast of Mary, Help of Christians.

In 1821, some 200 years ago, the first Catholic Chaplain in Australia, Father John Joseph Therry from Ireland, dedicated his new parish church in Sydney to Saint Mary, Help of Christians. The Catholic exiles and settlers there had been praying to Mary Help of Christians, to send them a priest.

In 1844, the first provincial synod of the church in Australia was held. The Bishops placed the Church in Australia under the patronage of Our Lady, Help of Christians.

In 1852, the Vatican confirmed this decision.

In 2021, being the bicentennial year of Fr Therry's dedication of his Parish, it is wonderful to have The National Shrine of Our Lady Help of Christians – Patroness of Australia - located at Marian Valley, Canungra



**Our Lady Help of Christians Chapel**

## IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

On Tuesday 8th December 2020, Marian Valley celebrated the Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception. The main celebrant was Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE who was assisted by Fr Thomas Varkey, Booval Parish Priest and Fr Jeremy Santoso OSPPE

Pilgrims from Toowoomba arrived by bus, and a large group came with Fr Thomas from Booval. Following mass, there was a Eucharistic procession to the Fatima Grotto.

### Immaculate Conception

The Immaculate Conception is a dogma of the Catholic Church which states that the Virgin Mary was free of original sin from the moment of her conception in the womb of her mother Saint Anne. It was adopted as Church dogma by Pope Pius IX in *Ineffabilis Deus*, 1854.

The Immaculate Conception of Mary is one of four Marian dogmas of the Catholic Church, meaning that it is held to be a truth divinely revealed.



**Pilgrims at Fatima Grotto**

## MARIAN VALLEY CELEBRATES 25 YEARS

Twenty-five years ago, Marian Valley celebrated the Opening and Blessing of Our Lady Help of Christians by Bishop James Cuskelly, Auxiliary Bishop of the Brisbane Archdiocese. The Bishop celebrated the solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary on Sunday 10th December 1995.

The Pauline Order purchased the 209-acre dairy and goat property in 1994, thanks to the foresight of Fr Augustine Lazur, who was the Superior of the Pauline Order in Australia, at that time.

We thank the Pauline Fathers & Brothers in persevering with establishing this beautiful Marian Shrine, through the highs and the lows, limited resources and limited money, particularly in the early days.

We also thank the Pauline Fathers for maintaining the orthodox traditions of our church over some difficult years for our faith.

We pray the Pauline Fathers & Brothers will continue to grow and flourish in Australia, particularly here at Marian Valley Canungra.



**Br Bruno, Fr Anthony, Fr Albert, Fr Jeremy celebrating mass on the 25th anniversary of the dedication of the Black Madonna Chapel**



## BR BRUNO RETURNS

On Wednesday 30th September 2020, many of the Marian Valley volunteers gathered together after the 9am mass to welcome home Br Bruno Kanamis OSPPE.

In February 2020, Br Bruno and Fr Albert Wasniowski attended the General Chapter in Poland to elect a new General Superior and team, in what should have been a routine 3-week meeting. The day before departure, the Polish Government closed its borders with immediate effect, stranding them in Poland. Over the coming months, flights back to Australia were not available, and Brother Bruno was assigned general duties at the Mother House in Jasna Gora, in Poland.

However, in Br Bruno's words: "By the grace of God, I eventually got a flight on Sunday 13th September – Fatima Day". He arrived back in Sydney and quarantined for a fortnight, before returning to Queensland on Tuesday night, 29th September 2020.



**Br Bruno with fellow volunteers, on his welcome home day**

## FR ALBERT RETURNS

On Fatima Day, Friday 13th November, Fr Albert Wasniowski OSPPE was able to return home to Marian Valley. Volunteers gathered to welcome him home, but it was his fellow monks who were most pleased to see him return after 9 months 'in exile' in Poland.

Whilst Fr Albert and Br Bruno were stranded overseas, Fr Jeremy and Fr Anthony were responsible for keeping Marian Valley going, and as one Volunteer remarked, "they must be commended on the brilliant job they did over the past 9 months."

Fr Albert expressed his delight upon returning, saying, "I am so happy to return home after all this time.....it is such a relief."



**Fr Jeremy, Fr Albert and Br Bruno**

## RWANDAN CHAPEL BLESSING

On Saturday 28th November the Rwandan community rejoiced at the blessing of their new Chapel of Our Lady of Kibeho. This day is also the feast day of Our Lady of Kibeho and the anniversary of the initial apparition to Alphonsine Mumereke in 1981.

Fr Albert Wasniowski was the main celebrant at the mass which was followed by a procession to the Rwandan Chapel. He was assisted by Fr Jeremy Santoso and Fr Anthony David.

The Rwandan community choir sang many hymns in their traditional culture.

Although the chapel has not been completed yet, the main organiser, Protais Muhirwa said construction should be finalised by mid-2021.



**Blessing of Our Lady of Kibeho**

## DIVINE MERCY

This is the Original Image of Divine Mercy which was painted in Vilnius, Lithuania in 1935 by Polish artist, Professor Eugeniusz Kazimirowski, under the very close direction of Saint Faustina Kowalska, and with the help of her spiritual director, Blessed Father Michael Sopoćko. It is a copy of this image which will feature in the soon to be built Divine Mercy Chapel at Marian Valley.

In 1933, Sister Faustina arrived in Vilnius from Poland to join the order of the Sisters of God's Mother of Mercy. Over many years, Sister Faustina experienced many visions, and while living in Vilnius she began to recount her visions to her spiritual advisor Father Michael Sopoćko.

In the year 2000, Pope John Paul II proclaimed mercy to be the most significant message for the new millennium, and this helped to strengthen devotion to the Divine Mercy.

Pilgrims can visit the authentic Image of Divine Mercy at the Shrine of Divine Mercy located on Dominikonų Street in the Old Town of Vilnius. A short distance away is the House of St Faustina where she experienced a large number of her visions, and where she received the Divine Mercy Chapel.

Sister Faustina (25th August 1905 – 5 October 1938) was canonized on 30 April 2000 by St. Pope John Paul II. Blessed Michael Sopoćko (1st November 1888 – 15 February 1975) was beatified on 26 September 2008 by Pope Benedict XVI.

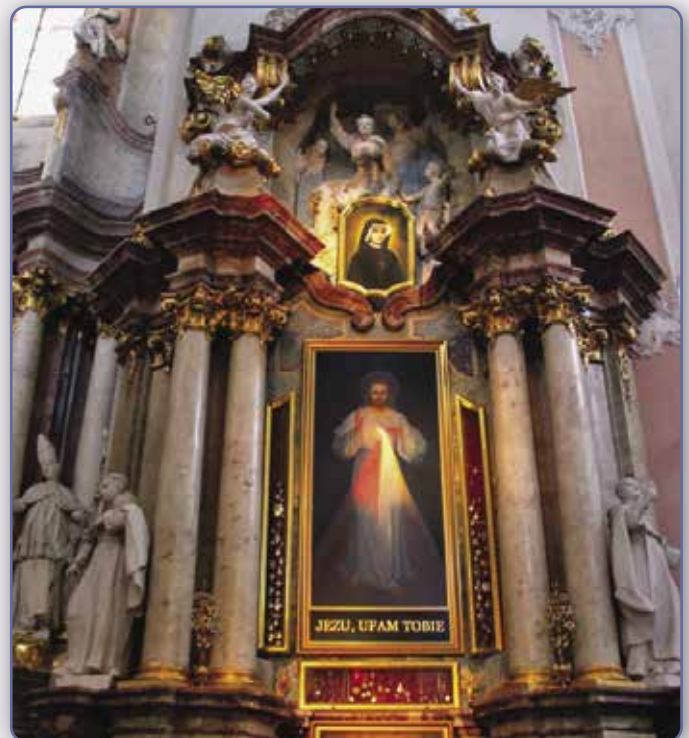
### Divine Mercy Chapel

Plans have been drawn up for a beautiful Divine Mercy Chapel at Marian Valley. It is even more wonderful news that Marian Valley has now received approval to go ahead with the construction. It is hoped to be completed by early 2022.

The original image of Divine Mercy has been gratefully donated by a Benefactor and will feature on the main wall.

Fr Albert said, "This will truly be a wonderful place to worship and we are so grateful to the Benefactors for their very generous support."

"For the sake of his sorrowful passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world."



**Divine Mercy Sanctuary, Holy Trinity Church, Vilnius, Lithuania**



## ALL SAINTS DAY

Veneration of the relics of saints reflects a belief that saints in heaven intercede for those on earth. Each year on 1st November - All Saints Day - the Pauline Order puts on a wonderful display of saint's relics which are held at Marian Valley. This is a joyous time for pilgrims, particularly children, who are fascinated to see the relics of some of their favourite saints on display.

### Relics

The word relic comes from the Latin word reliquiae, meaning "remains." A container used to hold a relic is called a reliquary. The Catholic Church divides relics into three classes: First-Class relics are the body or fragments of the body of a saint, such as pieces of bone or flesh. Second-class relics are something that a saint personally owned, such as a shirt or book (or fragments of those items). Third-class relics are those items that a saint touched or that have been touched to a first, second or another third-class relic of a saint, usually a small piece of cloth. Scripture teaches that God acts through relics, especially in terms of healing. Test yourself, and try to name the saints in the photos below...



**St Francis Xavier, St Mother Teresa, St Vincent de Paul, St Faustina Kowalska, St Stanislaus Kostka, St Dominic Savio, St Maria Goretti**



**St Paul the First Hermit, St Pius X, St Mary of the Cross (MacKillop)**

## FROM THE ARCHIVES

### Fr Dominic Cremasco SVD

The statue of Our Lady of the Southern Cross at Marian Valley was sculpted by Fr Dominic Cremasco SVD (Divine Word Missionaries) of Brisbane, Queensland, and was dedicated by him on the 1st May 1999.

Our Lady of the Southern Cross Chapel is located in the forest at the far end of Marian Valley. Fr Dom chose the chapel site 200 metres in the forest, at the base of a huge Moreton Bay Fig Tree.

Fr Dom was a wonderful supporter of Marian Valley. He often helped out with confessions, particularly on the main days, and was regularly called upon to celebrate Mass when the Pauline Fathers were not available.

Fr Dom was a colourful character. One of the names that he was regularly called was "The Caravan Priest", as he frequently moved around in order to minister to many pilgrims.

Fr Dom was born on 2/2/1922 (very unusual) and was ordained on 2nd September 1957. He passed away on 29th March 2016 - Easter Tuesday, aged 94 years old.



**Fr Dominic Cremasco SVD**

May he rest in peace.

## NEW YEAR'S EVE

Each year on New Year's Eve Marian Valley celebrates Mass of Thanksgiving at 7pm, followed by a Eucharistic procession and devotions to the Grotto of Our Lady of Fatima. Pilgrims then process back to the main church for Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament and quiet prayer until Midnight mass for the Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God. Once again, it was a beautiful and peaceful holy night, and a wonderful way to start the new year.



**Prayers at Fatima Grotto on New Year's Eve**

### Milen & Nadia Lemiszczuk

One of the attractions for the nights over the Christmas/New Year time are the lights which decorate the various Chapels throughout the Valley. This is the artistic work of volunteers Milen & Nadia Lemiszczuk.

For the past few years, the couple have lit up the various Chapels at Marian Valley with many different types of Christmas lights. They are both very enthusiastic about their annual project, always challenging themselves with new ideas.

We look forward to seeing what surprises Milen and Nadia have installed for us next Christmas.

Thanks Milen and Nadia for brightening up our Christmas.



**Nadia & Milen putting up the Christmas lights**

## VALE ERICA FREINGRUBER

On Sunday 10th January 2021, family and friends gathered for a memorial mass for Erika Freingruber who was a member of the Marian Valley community, and regularly attended the 11am mass on Sundays. The main celebrant was Fr Anthony David OSPPE.

Erika was born in Austria on 23rd March 1940. In the 1960's, she immigrated to Australia and settled in Gladstone, Queensland. In 2001 she moved to Tambourine Mountain and became a frequent visitor to Marian Valley.

Erika was a character, with a spritely personality, and often volunteered on the tea/coffee service table at Marian Valley.

The last 3 years of her life, Erika was very unwell, suffering from infections and pain. Erika had her first fall in April 2020 in her home whilst living in Beaudesert. It was quite some time before she was discovered on the floor in her home. Much to her amusement, this made the news, as well as Channel 7 Sunrise. Later on, she had a second fall and tests revealed that she had cancer. Erika passed away on 28th December 2020, aged 80 years old.



**Erika Freingruber**

May she rest in peace